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issue 3, volume 84 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, January 16, 2025

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NEW BUFFALO TIMES
PO BOX 369, New Buffalo, MI 49117

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PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

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'Hoosiers' bus generates memories for real life basketball champion

BY STAN MADDUX

A Michigan City man was reliving his days as an Indiana high school basketball state champion while inside the bus players from the movie "Hoosiers" rode in on their way to a state title.

HICKORY HUSKER BUS
If you'd like to donate to help preserve this piece of Hoosier basketball history you can by scanning the QR code below.

"The bus is great. It's good. It's good," said Rob McFarland, who, obviously, seemed to relish the moment.

The 1939 Chevy school bus was outside the Civic Auditorium on Jan. 9 for the opening of the ESPN televised La Porte Invitational, featuring some of the best players in the nation competing on 11 boys' college prep school teams from around the country.

One of the teams participating was La Lumiere.

The red and yellow bus was there for people heading to the games to stop and look at or go inside at no cost

McFarland was the starting center on the Elston High School boys' basketball team from Michigan City that won the state championship in 1966.

"We rode a bus a little bit bigger than this one," chuckled McFarland, who sat in one of just 10 seats on the bus.

Except for the difference in bus size, McFarland said there were similarities between his real life season and the one depicted in the movie he's watched countless times since the film's debut in 1986.

The storied Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis is where his Red Devils won the state title.

Filming of the much smaller Hickory Huskers team winning the state championship in 1952 was on the same court.

"That brought back lots of memories. Lots of memories," he said.

Both teams also won their state titles when all of the schools in the tournament competed in a single class system.

McFarland went on to play basketball at the University of Pittsburgh.

He stepped on the bus with friend Bob Hull. The Long Beach man said he used to watch Hoosiers with his sons every year before the start of the high school boys' basketball sectionals.

"I love it. I love it. It looks just like the one in the movie," Hull said.

Kalvin Jones of La Porte said it was neat to see the bus from one of his all-time favorite movies.

"It's pretty cool looking," he said.

Bruce Stevens, also of La Porte, said the bus made him feel like he was part of history and the film.

"Good old La Porte has the Hickory bus. I think it's pretty outstanding," he said.

The bus is owned by Darryll Baker, who has taken the bus on a regular basis the past four years to events statewide and in Washington D.C.

The downstate Greenfield man even drove a lap in the bus at Indianapolis Motor Speedway to promote a game, where the Indiana Pacers wore Hickory Huskers uniforms at one of their home games.

His grandfather, Jack, purchased the vehicle after it was placed out of commission as a school bus in 1949.

He turned the bus into an RV and still had it when he was approached by the director and writer of the movie, who had been looking everywhere for a bus to use in the filming.

Baker, a former U.S. Navy officer, said he acquired the bus in 1996 and had it restored but didn't use it much until he retired in 2021 and moved back to Indiana.

Ever since, he's been taking the bus to a lot of parades, festivals and other events.

"It's just been a lot of fun. Everywhere I take this people just really react well to it," he said.

The bus is often at the gym, where practices and home games in the movie were filmed in Knightstown about 13 miles east of his residence.

Baker said the facility is now a community center run by an organization called Hoosier Gym, which books the gym for use by high school and private league games throughout much of the year.

A great city is not to be confounded with a populous one. — *Aristotle*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRINCE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Chikaming Township awarded major grant for Kohn Park Project

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The awarding of a major grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to the township for the Kohn Park project was met with applause at the Chikaming Township Board of Trustees meeting Thursday, Jan. 9.

Board members accepted the DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) development grant in the amount of $327,700.00.

With this grant, Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte said the township has now raised in private donations and additional grants $559,395 toward Kohn Park, which will be in downtown Sawyer.

Currently, the project is in the development and engineering phase, with the hope that it'll be bid out and started this summer.

The township will continue to fundraise for the project.

Bunte thanked Joe Martin, township parks director, police chief Todd Taylor and Deborah and John Chipman for being "extremely instrumental" in the writing of the "challenging, detailed grant." He also thanked the letters of support from the community, adding that the township had to resubmit the grant application to increase its score.

"The township should be thrilled and proud and I'm extremely thrilled and proud as well," he said.

Board members also approved a no match Berrien Community Foundation For Good Grant for $5,000 toward the construction of Kohn Park, allowing Bunte to sign the necessary documentation.

Board members adopted a resolution to submit a United States Department of Agriculture Grant application, which is due in February, toward the future park. The $75,000 grant has a $25,000 match amount for a total amount of $100,000.

Bunte said it's believed the final numbers for the project will come in at just a little over $700,000.

Upon recommendation of Abonmarche, board members approved the revised low bid award in the amount of $1,200,521.57 to CPM Construction for the Harbert Park Improvements Project.

Bunte said the township had received three bids on the project, which were reviewed by Abonmarche late last year

The township had received a Spark Grant from the DNR for $878,700 and had matched 10 percent of that amount, or $97,700. The entire project cost then came in just a little under $1 million, which is over budget. Bunte said that changes that were requested during the process were lighting for the pickleball courts and the parking lot adjacent to Township Center, as well as additional lighting infrastructure that will be put throughout the park on the additional pathways.

Board members approved the submission of a grant through the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for the first round of extrication equipment for the fire department.

A request to send Natalie Bibb to the police academy was approved. Police chief Todd Taylor said that Bibb, who is seeking full-time employment with the police department, has a bachelor's degree in psychology and criminal justice and "extensive experience" with the Indiana Department of Child Services as a foster care specialist and CPS.

Martin gave an update on the township's draft five-year Parks and Recreation Plan, which has been submitted to the board.

The 89-page draft plan is available on the township's website for the public's review and will be brought to the board for approval at its February meeting.

Martin said he felt the current plan, which was put together by the former park board and a consultant, was "strong enough" for him to merely make some modifications to the proposed plan, adding that he eliminated any references to the park board. He collaborated with members of the Michigan Organizational Leadership Development (MOLD) cohort from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association) mParks) Program and consulted with senior parks directors across the state to put together a parks and recreation manual that served as the plan's "guiding element."

A survey, which elicited over 700 responses from the public, is included in the plan, as well as the township's Summer Concert Series and Cherry Beach's paid kiosk system.

The plan needs to be submitted by Feb. 1, which is before the township's February meeting, to qualify for any grant opportunities with the DNR.

Bunte said that he feels that, if it wasn't submitted before Feb. 1, it wouldn't allow the township to go after DNR grants for the rest of the year "but the potential for that happening, with everything else that we have already done or are doing, is remote."

He added that he feels it's important that the board and public review the plan.

"Most of the grants that we're now going after are not going to be in that DNR category, from Recreation Passport, land trust or acquisition that I can foresee in the next 12 months... We've got quite a bit on our plate for the next 12 months to two years," he said.

The training of children is a profession, where we must know how to waste time in order to save it. — *Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

Residents seek answers on recent boil order

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS LIFTS ADVISORY

BY THERESE DONNELLY

The crowd at the Three Oaks Village Council's Wednesday, Jan. 8, meeting filled the meeting room at the village hall and spilled into the hallway, with residents seeking answers to the most recent boil order issued by the village.

The most recent advisory, which was lifted Jan. 9, is the third issued since September 2024 and residents came out with questions about what is being done.

Three Oaks residents received notice Jan. 6 that Coliform bacteria had been detected during a routine water sampling. As part of the response to this, village officials advised people to boil water for at least one minute before any ingestion, including drinking, brushing teeth and making ice.

During the boil order, the water department flushed affected lines and repaired a damaged line. State guidelines required follow up testing before the boil advisory could be lifted.

Coliform is commonly found in soil and most coliform are not considered harmful; however, it can indicate the presence of harmful bacteria, including e. Coli. At the Jan. 8 meeting, Village Manager Dan Faulkner said no other bacteria had been detected during the samplings and if e. Coli had been present, the village would've conducted a door-to-door notification.

In response to some of the questions raised by residents, Faulkner explained the village water source is clean and the bacteria appears to have entered from a damaged water line. The village would repair the damaged area without replacing the entire line. When asked about using chlorination to prevent future contamination, Faulkner said chlorine is corrosive to the phosphate lining that protects from bacterial growth, and could change the chemistry of the water. He said making such a change would need consultation with engineers.

Coliform is commonly found in soil and most coliform are not considered harmful; however, it can indicate the presence of harmful bacteria, including e. Coli. At the Jan. 8 meeting, Village Manager Dan Faulkner said no other bacteria had been detected during the samplings and if e. Coli had been present, the village would've conducted a door-to-door notification.

"Our job is to provide safe water," he said.

The village conducts monthly water tests at designated sites directly off the water main. Residents expressed concerns bacteria levels could be elevated for weeks before a test. Village President Steve Graziano said the village could look into more frequent testing.

Graziano thanked attendants for remaining polite in their questions, even while they were frustrated with the situation. He added that people can call village hall with any questions.

After addressing boil advisory, the council approved Nick Hawes' rezoning request to change property at 111 N. Elm Street from Mixed Use 1 to Mixed Use 2.

The council had previously approved a request to rezone 9 W. Linden Street to Mixed Use 2. At the January meeting, the council finalized paperwork associated with the request.

As part of the wastewater system improvement project, the council approved a payment and reimbursement request from Oselka Constructors, Co., in the amount of $234,020.58.

During the December council meeting, Bridget Verdun asked the council to consider selling a village lot adjacent to her property. Verdun said that, due to the size and layout, cars must encroach on her property to park on the village lot.

At the January meeting, the council discussed the matter further. Graziano said he did not want to give up public parking options, but agreed the lot is currently unusable. The council directed Faulkner to look into possibilities, including bike and motorcycle parking or parallel spots.

After a brief discussion, the council agreed to pay Harbor Arts $100 per week to put on public concerts in the summer. The payment came after councilmember Mike Springer explained the group is charged that amount to use Dewey Canon Park for the summer Music in the Park series. The payments will cancel each other out. The council also approved waiving the $120 fee for portable toilet use during the concerts.

Councilmembers praised the series and said they wanted it to continue.

In order to proceed with plans to lay a sidewalk along U.S.12 between Dunn Street and Nells Drive, the council approved a contract with Orbis Environmental to perform an archeological survey on the area for $8,180.

Faulkner explained the state requires surveys to determine if there are any historical artifacts.

Discussing board appointments, Graziano noted the Construction Board of Appeals currently only has one of the required three members and has met once in five years. He suggested entering discussions with Three Oaks Township about creating a joint board.

Standard municipality pay rates set a $1 per hour pay raise for every occupational license an employee obtains. Faulkner explained water department employees Matt Lindsey and Joe Fender each recently passed two water operator tests. The council approved a $2 per hour raise for both Lindsey and Fender.

The Planning Commission has approved a Special Land Use request for 205 Nells Drive, but the council will need to approve what councilmember Lois Jones called a "minor issue" in the plan. The council agreed to have a special meeting Jan. 10 to discuss the matter.

Springer reported the rain garden adjacent to Village Hall is nearly complete. He said work is below budget thanks to volunteers helping with the work, and materials being purchased at wholesale.

Springer also said there are plans for a spring review of all village parks to identify any maintenance or repair work needed.

Addressing the recent news that Three Oaks Township will no longer contract with the village police department for police patrols, Graziano clarified the village will still respond to emergency calls in the township but will not conduct routine patrols.

Before the meeting adjourned, Gene Svebakken informed the council the Harbor Country Rotary will present the village with the Golden Trowel, an award to recognize individuals and organizations that support Rotary projects. He said a ceremony is planned at New Buffalo Yacht Club Jan. 22.

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

This is a difficult concept for most people because manyare not taught that lifestyle habits are what set you up for your future sickness or wellness. It is what we eat, watch, think, listen to, dwell on, and DO every day in and day out that nourishes or depletes your cells in your body. We cannot depend solely on our genes to pull us through.

GENETICS LOADS THE GUN BUT DIET & LIFESTYLE PULL THE TRIGGER

Sadly, this is the first generation to have a lower life expectancy than the previous generation.

The Western medical culture has made us believe that we can eat all the processed chemically laden food, get chronically sick, then they can "fix" us. If something starts hurting, you can get a pill for pain. If something stops functioning correctly, it can be cut out of you so it doesn't bother you anymore. If something wears out, it can be replaced and you can get a new one.

And if all this doesn't work, then you are told you'll just have to live with it and there is nothing else that can be done. It is all in your head. Then you are prescribed anti-depressants.

When it comes right down to it, the story you are fed is that you can live any way you want, you can eat whatever you want, you can sit around for as long as you want, Because when your body gives out (and it's not if your body gives out, it is just a matter of when) then we'll have a pill, or surgery that will fix you. All of this is unfair to you. The medical model has taken away our instincts, intuitionsand power. We each have our own responsibility to our health. It is in daily choices that we make.

If you have a fortune in the bank, fancy cars and a mansion, none of it is worth anything if you are sick and unable to enjoy any of it. There is no better wealth than health.

Yes, we need Doctors, hospitals and drugs. I am talking about the lack of education we are getting when we go to our wellness appointments. We are only given a few minutes with a doctor, and usually prescribed a chemical medicine. To get off the roller coaster, learn some truths in books. Check out from your local library in the Natural Health section. Learn how to take care of your body before it begins to break down

Nature offers herbs and foods that work far better than laboratory drugs and they don't have serious side effects that can kill you. Knowledge is power. Learn the Laws of Nature, Ditch the processed foods that please your taste buds. Get back to fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds legumes and microgreens. Get on Facebook pages that offer holistic health forums. Read these articles, Watch health documentaries. These are all free and can turn your health around. Be mindful and responsible for your own health. Even if you do get sick, nature is the way to bring you back.

Disclaimer: Nothing in these articles is meant to replace medical advice. If you are on medications, do not stop taking them. This is for educational purposes.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

Raiders hang on against surging Titans

BY STAN MADDUX

A comfortable fourth quarter lead quickly evaporated but the Red Arrow Raiders hung on to defeat Michigan Lutheran in girls' high school basketball 32-27 Tuesday, Jan. 7.

The Raiders were ahead 30-14 early in the final period at New Buffalo High School but the Titans roared back with help from turnovers, which were caused mostly from switching to a full court pressure defense.

Clinging to a four-point lead with less than 20 seconds left on the clock, Raiders Head Coach Jason Alexander, who sensed his players were panicking, told them during a timeout to calm down and be confident.

The Titans were not able to score again, while the Raiders added a point from a free throw by sophomore Emma Seifert.

In the final seconds, sophomore Peyton Swaim caught a long pass down court and held on to the ball until the buzzer sounded.

Alexander said his players having trouble handling the pressure defense is typical for any young team needing more experience under their belt to adapt more easily to those game situations.

All but three of his players are freshmen and sophomores.

"Hopefully, we can learn from that and just keep moving forward," he said.

Swaim, who nailed four three-point shots, led all scorers with 17 points.

Sophomore Laney Strother, who made two shots from beyond the three point arch, finished with 10 points.

Swaim and Strother followed the game plan on offense built around their stronger ability to shoot.

Alexander said he specifically told Swaim before the game that the team especially needed her to have a great shooting night.

Swaim hit three point shots from both the baseline and top of the key.

"She didn't let me down," he said.

The Raiders improved their record to 3-4.

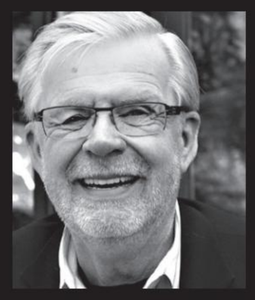
Until the fourth quarter, the team showed noticeable improvement since the start of the season, particularly in executing on offense.

"We just have a really good group of kids. They all want to learn and they all want to get better. I think we have a bright future ahead of us," Alexander said.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



Football, football, football. No wonder it surpassed all the other sports in popularity.

Unlike baseball, every game is important because there are only 17 of them versus baseball's 162. Also unlike baseball, the playing field is pretty much even.

There are no Dodgers or Yankees or Mets or half a dozen others who are able or willing to give players half a billion dollars or more. Football has new competitive teams every year because of the salary cap, baseball needs to have a salary cap or something that allows more teams to be competitive.

My favorite football team is by far the Bears, but I've had real enjoyment watching the Detroit Lions become Super Bowl contenders. After watching the Bears all season, and now the beginning of the playoffs, I am confident that coaching is, and has been, the biggest need for any team to succeed.

The Bears fired their head coach and it is imperative that they make the correct hire this time around. Detroit's success has pushed both their offensive and defensive coordinators to the top of many lists of head coaching candidates and because the Bears have a quarterback that most feel is going to be great, the Bears need to go after the offensive guy, Ben Johnson. Johnson has dazzled the league this season with his innovative play calling.

While Detroit has some great players, I think that with the proper coaching and play calling the Bears players can be just as good. The Lions are so good right now but if their coordinators leave, they will take a step back. The Vikings are really good too, but they have a quarterback decision coming up this off season that could force them back a little and the Packers ended the season with a loss to the Bears and an immediate exit from the playoffs.

With some improvement to the offensive and defensive lines and an excellent new coaching staff, the Bears could be legitimate contenders as soon as next season. Wouldn't that be nice?

On the collegiate level, the Ohio State vs. Notre Dame game should be a real barn burner. It's nice to have midwestern teams playing for the national championship.

Back to baseball, it seems unbelievable to me that the people in charge are so shortsighted. The commissioner tries new rules almost every year. Agents seem to make owners shake in their boots. Locally, we have two owners that are very different but almost equally unsuccessful.

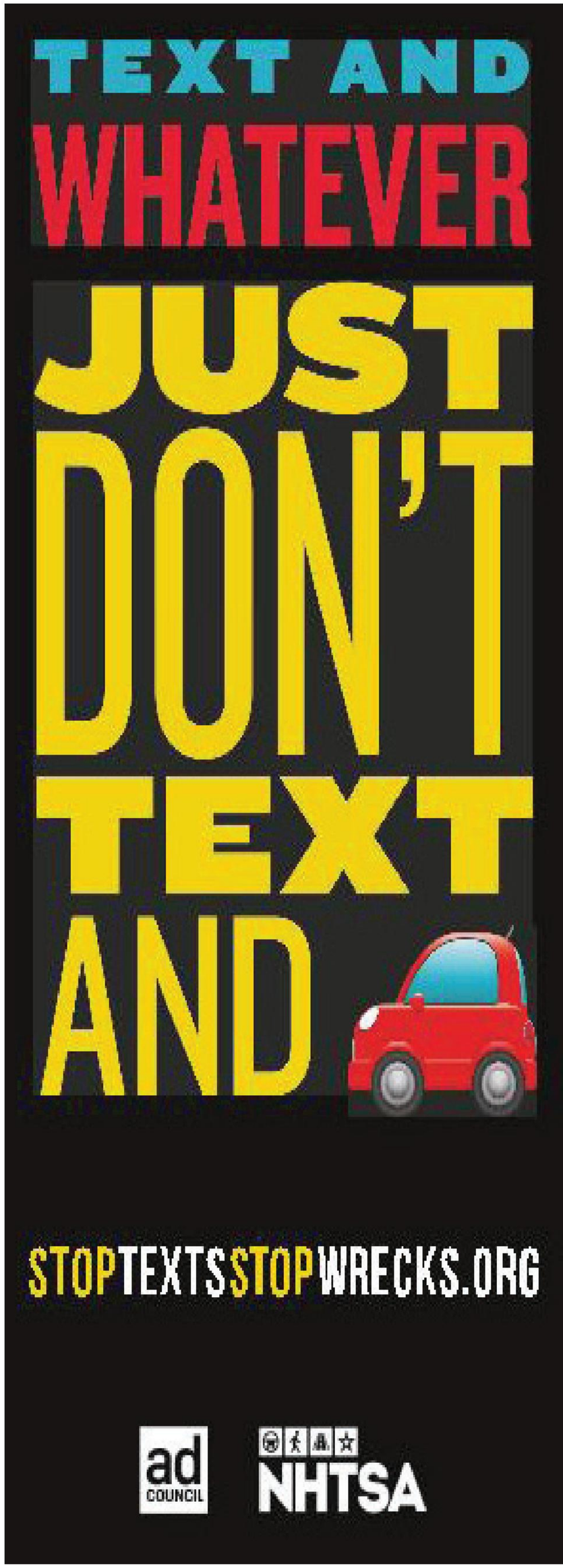
Of course Jerry Reinsdorf, principal owner of the White Sox, led his team to the worst record in the history of baseball last year. He seems to have forgotten about all the fans and just wants to make sure the minority owners get rich when the team is sold.

When the Ricketts family bought the Cubs, they said they were fans and would endeavor for the Cubs to be a playoff team every year. While they are smart (or lucky) enough to keep the turnstiles going, they seem to stop just short of being able to field a legitimate contender. I do think they will at least make the playoffs next season.

From the song Glory Days by Bruce Springsteen: "Glory days / Yeah, they'll pass you by, glory days / In the wink of a young girls eye, glory days / Glory days."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

A reason why Montverde's Kevin Boyle is the winningest coach in high school basketball is because he practices "Accept your Fates technology" which of course forces the ball to the open player continuously. Additionally, if you don't move the ball to the openest player, you sit immediately. *— Dino N. Fatouros*



La Lumiere has tougher road for national tourney bid

BY STAN MADDUX

It could be a dog fight for this year's college prep school boys' basketball team at La Lumiere to get invited back to the National Championship tournament.

The Lakers were defeated in each of their three games against nationally ranked opponents during the ESPN and YouTube TV televised fourth annual La Porte Invitational Jan. 9-11 at the historic Civic Auditorium.

La Lumiere, 13-8, went into the competition at No. 12 in the ESPN national rankings but dropped out of the most recent top 25 rankings.

Head Coach Pat Holmes hasn't lost hope of being one of the eight teams invited to the Chipotle Nationals in Indianapolis on April 3-5.

"We got to take care of business," he said.

The Lakers, who were national champions in 2017, narrowly missed receiving an invitation to the tournament last year.

This year's squad has four returning starters, including forward Jalen Haralson, who's committed to play at the University of Notre Dame next season, and guard Darius Adams.

Adams is signed to play next season at the University of Connecticut.

The other returning starters are seniors Melvin Bell, a guard committed to play at San Jose State, and forward Chuck Love, III, who's heading to the University of Loyola at Chicago.

Holmes said this year's team, after losing two seven-foot players to graduation, plays more of a half-court style offense but can move the ball at a faster pace when the opportunity presents itself.

He said the emphasis is still on a balanced attack and finding open shooters on offense along with solid defense.

"All of these guys have had great moments for us and that's what we need to be successful. It can't be just one or two guys," he said.

Eleven team from all over the nation took part in the La Porte Invitational, which featured more than 20 of the nation's most highly recruited players.

The four games on Saturday were played before a sell-out crowd.

La Lumiere hosts the competition returning to the Civic Auditorium for at least the next two years under the existing contract.

Holmes said the event gaining national television exposure is great for the school and the La Porte community.

"All eyes are on us is awesome," he said.

Bison survive Mustangs rally in boys basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

The boys' basketball team from River Valley High School stormed back from a 14 point deficit late in the third quarter on Friday, January 10, but their arch rivals from New Buffalo held on in the final seconds to win 62-58.

Two technical fouls called on the Bison in the fourth quarter seemed to reflect tension from the Mustangs storming back and later taking the lead before a good sized crowd at New Buffalo High School.

New Buffalo Head Coach Nate Tripp said what he liked most about the game was relief from being ahead on the scoreboard when the final buzzer sounded.

He then expressed confidence in his players.

"I knew we were going win. I believe in my guys. They're fine. They know how to play," he said.

Initially, New Buffalo with junior Lucas Forker leading the charge rallied from a six point deficit in the early minutes of the game to take a six point lead on a three point shot from junior Sam Tripp late in the first quarter.

It wasn't long before Lorenzo Nava drove in for short bucket to cut the lead to four points heading into the second quarter.

The Bison (9-3) went into halftime leading 27-18.

The momentum seemed to further swing toward New Buffalo when senior M'Nason Smothers started the third quarter by making an acrobatic bank shot while driving to the rim and scoring quickly again on a lay-up set up by a nifty pass from junior Sam Tripp.

Forker from down low scored the next two baskets to put the Bison up by 14 points.

However, River Valley quickly started narrowing the lead and went ahead early in the fourth quarter on consecutive bank shots from Nava and Sean Driscoll.

A lay up from Nava then gave the Mustangs a three point lead before junior Trevor James evened the score when he drove in for a bucket and drew a foul then sank a free throw.

The Mustangs regained a three point lead with four minutes left in the game.

New Buffalo went ahead for good when Smothers after a steal at half court drove in for a lay-up and James followed with a short bucket.

Nova led all scorers from both teams with 26 points.

Forker scored 19 points in what was a balanced attack from the Bison.

Tripp said the Mustangs rallied because his long range shooters couldn't take advantage of more scoring opportunities once they decided to focus more on stopping his players from scoring close to the rim.

SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo Elementary School receives boost to music library

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A Golden Acorn Classroom Mini-Grant will help create a music library for lower elementary students at New Buffalo.

Susan Matheny, program director at Berrien Community Foundation, presented a giant check of $450 to Janelle Foulk, New Buffalo Elementary School music teacher, toward creating the library at the New Buffalo Area Schools' Board of Education meeting Monday, Jan. 13.

Every year, Matheny said that the foundation has two rounds of classroom mini grants, which teachers and staff members can apply to "for projects that happen in the school."

"Children's literature is such a great avenue and interdisciplinary approach to get kids excited about reading and music," Foulk said.

Board members approved retaining their current offices: Lisa Werner, president; Denise Churchill, vice president; Vanessa Thun, secretary and John Haskins, treasurer.

Board members heard a mid-year update from the three buildings' principals on the district's Strategic Scorecard

The scorecard contains three pillars: academics, growth and sustainability and culture and community.

With regards to academics, New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley said that the school began tracking its Tier II advisories, with teachers tracking if, every time they issue a goal slip to a student to see them during advisory, it's improving their grade as well as ensuring students have their educational development plans completed via the platform Zello.

New Buffalo Middle School Principal Dan Caudle said that the school is using data from the NWEA assessments to see what students need help as well as which ones are accelerated; providing Response to Intervention classes for students in lower percentiles in reading/language and math every other day and, at the end of the day, using NWEA data to create WIN (What I Need) for students who are struggling with certain parts of the material to be put in smaller groups for "reteaching and intervention."

New Buffalo Elementary School Principal Melissa Lijewski said that the school will be giving Benchmark assessments and progress monitoring monthly on other assessments, is holding monthly data meetings with teachers to talk with Lijewski and the Title I coordinator to see how "we're intervening and enriching students based on what we're seeing on our digital data wall we created" and using online programs "to where we're meeting students at their level to give them those extra practice on standards."

Janelle Foulk and Susan Matheny with the check toward the music library

Regarding growth and sustainability, Ripley said that all staff members have BetterLesson coaches, that the school has implemented a mentor/mentoree program for new teachers, that trimester awards ceremonies are held for students, and that daily attendance has increased from being 96.5 percent in 2022-2023 to 97.8 percent in 2024-2025.

Caudle said that Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) committee meetings that have included directors from the corporation and parents and students have been held and the wellness team has been active on Facebook and Instagram and weekly messaging through Bison Bits.

Lijewski said that they've been promoting positive achievements weekly through the Bison Blurb newsletter and spotlighting certain groups of students, working on getting parents in for PBIS and school improvement meetings and sending out a survey with regards to PBIS.

With regards to culture and community, Ripley said that each department is looking at state assessments in the high school and creating S.M.A.R.T. goals, the wellness team is working on a social/emotional flow chart and common procedures with hyperlinks in it, a crisis response protocol has been created, Tier II interventions have been added and a Spanish speaking social worker from Berrien RESA comes in twice a week to work with non-native speaking families and students.

Caudle said that there's been an addition of a school counselor and social worker and the student advocate position has changed, as it's now a "one lane academic highway" position;" biweekly at-risk meetings have continued as well as a student support team, which involves the teachers more and is more parents focused by reaching out to them with phone calls, in-person meetings and emails.

Lijewski said that the elementary school has added a restorative paraprofessional and a sensory room, and teachers respond twice a day through Class Catalyst to check on students.

Board members approved the Frederick S. Upton Foundation Grant in the amount of $13,500, which will provide funding to map the biodiversity of plants and trees for land management, educational opportunities, and community recreation on two parcels of district-owned land. Superintendent Adam Bowen said that the matching grant will preserve the property where the PUD, Bison Preserve, is going across the elementary school and the trails behind the school.

Board members accepted the resignations, for retirement purposes, of two longtime staff members: Keith Carlson, director of operations and Robert Hughes, the instructor for Building Trades.

Board members heard about Bowen approving the following hires: baseball head coach, Adam Lijewski; baseball assistant coach, Chris Thun; golf coach, Ed Fidler; girls soccer head coach, Natalie Walter; girls tennis head coach, Dave Kelly; girls' tennis assistant coach, Lisa Price; middle school track coaches, Vance Price, Lisa Knoll and Leanne Lamport and high school track assistant coaches, Marty McGinn and Matt Johnson.

Members of 2025 Three Oaks/River Valley Court begin their reigns

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

For Ava-Marie Ledesma, being named 2025 Miss Three Oaks/ River Valley is the crowning achievement that tops off a childhood of pageantry.

"I've been doing this since I was a little girl - I remember going to the Flag Day parade and always looking up to Miss Three Oaks and thinking, 'I want to do this someday,'" Ledesma said after being crowned during the Wrigley Field-themed pageant at the River Valley High School Auditorium Saturday, Jan. 11.

In addition to her current crown, Ava-Marie was in the Little Miss court, was Flag Day princess, was 2019 Miss Junior Teen and was on the Miss Teen court.

"I'm looking forward to Blossomtime, getting to do things for my community, with my community and with my court – it's going to be an amazing year and I'm so excited," she said.

The daughter of Santiago Ledesma and Rhian Maurer, Ava-Marie is a 17-year-old senior at River Valley High School. She is a proud member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. This summer, she plans to complete an internship at Four Winds Casino and then obtain a bachelor's degree in special education from Indiana University South Bend with the hopes of returning to teach at River Valley. She has volunteered at a variety of local events, such as Apple Cider Century and the concession stand at athletic events. In school, she's in student congress, Peer to Peer, the CTE Criminal Justice and varsity softball.

Ava-Marie was also named Miss Congeniality.

First and second runners-up to Miss Three Oaks/River Valley are Lydia Habel and Mikayala Falzone, respectively.

The daughter of Ryan Habel and Theresa Schmaltz, Lydia is a 17-year-old senior at River Valley High School. Next year, she'd like to major in elementary education at Grand Valley State University, so she can be a first-grade teacher at River Valley Elementary School. In school she participates in Reading Corps, Peer to Peer, the CTE Teacher Cadet class and varsity softball.

Mikayala is the daughter of Dustin and Ashley Falzone and an 18-year-old senior at River Valley High School. In college, she'd like to study psychology, creative writing or special education. She participates in student council and writes creative stories in her free time.

Crowned Miss Teen Three Oaks/River Valley 2025 was Brianna Taylor.

She said she's most looking forward to fulfilling her reign with Ava-Marie, who she's known since she was very young, as well as "just helping my community out and learning more about my community."

Remy Reyna poses onstage

Boden James answers a question from Zack East

Ava-Marie Ledesma performs during her commercial segment

Blake Monroe is crowned Little Mr. Three Oaks and River Valley

Lydia Habel become the Progressive girl for her commercial

Miss 2024 Three Oaks and River Valley wishes the crowd farewell

Lydia Habel takes the stage

Eva Ebbott poses a question to Peyton Swain

Brianna Taylor is crowned Miss Teen Three Oaks and River Valley

The 2024 court performs a farewell dance

The 2025 Three Oaks and River Valley Royal Court

The Little Miss contestants, Teya Chase, Isabella Wisner and Nora Wisniewski

The contestants perform during the opening number

The 2024 Royal Court performs a farewell dance

Mikayala Falzone performs during her commercial

Zack East poses a question to Lydia Habel

Miss Three Oaks and River Valley Second Runner-up Mikayala Falzone is crowned

Nora Wisniewski is crowned Little Miss Three Oaks and River Valley

Lydia Habel is crowned Miss First Runner-up and Ava-Maire Ledemsa is crowned Miss Three Oaks and River Valley

Zack East poses a question to Ava-Marie Ledesma

Zack East poses a question to Blake Monroe

The daughter of Tony and JJ Taylor, Brianna is a 16-year-old junior at River Valley High School.

To satisfy her need to help others and make a difference in their lives, she'd like to become a nurse. In school, she enjoys math and biology. When not in school she enjoys playing sports, working and spending time with family and friends.

The other Miss Teen contestant was Peyton Swain.

Crowned Little Miss Three Oaks/River 2025 was Nora Wisniewski.

The daughter of John Wisniewski and Kaili Forker, Nora is 8 years old and in the third grade. When she grows up, she'd like to be a third-grade teacher at her school. Outside of school, Nora enjoys riding her bike, riding her horses and playing with all her animals.

"I was really excited, and I was happy," Nora said upon being crowned.

She was especially excited to be crowned by her big sister, 2024 Little Miss Three Oaks/River Valley Isabella Forker, who she said inspired her to run.

"She did really good" was the verdict of 11-year-old Isabella when asked how she did.

Other Little Miss contestants were Isabella Wisner and Teya Chase.

Blake Monroe was crowned Little Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley 2025.

The son of John Monroe and Sam Knapp, Blake is a 10-year-old fifth grader. Someday, he'd like to follow in his aunt and grandpa's footsteps and become a farmer. When not in school Blake enjoys riding his bike and four-wheeler, helping on the farm, camping and reading.

Feeding the animals is the farm duty he most enjoys.

"Thank you for cheering me on and I'm happy to have won," Blake said to the cheering crowd.

Other Little Mr. contestants were Boden James and Remy Reyna.

Judges for the Miss competition were Kristin Russell, Amanda Abraham and Heather Nix. The Teen/Little judges were Stephanie Sullivan, who's 2024 Miss Indiana USA, Krystin Buist and Kayla Breitenbach.

Emceeing the pageant were Eva Ebbott, 2011 Miss Three Oaks who's a teacher of students with severe multiple disabilities and Zack East, a River Valley High School graduate and vice president of business development for Mid-West Family Southwest Michigan.

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Fire ravages near lakefront home outside LaPorte

BY STAN MADDUX

There was not much, if anything, left after fire spread throughout a house the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 14, beside Pine Lake just outside LaPorte.

Firefighters about 9:30 a.m. responded to 48 Nilewood Drive.

They discovered flames engulfing the A-frame structure with a basement and attached garage owned by Kevin and Stacy Pugh.

Center Township Volunteer Fire Department Capt. Eric Haverstock said nobody was home at the time but a dog inside the residence was presumed dead.

"It went up real fast," said Ryan Koepke, who lives directly across the street and called 911 after noticing smoke coming from the house.

Koepke said his neighbors were at work at the time, but returned after notified about the blaze.

Sadly, he said "now, they got to pick their lives back up."

An older model Ford Mustang belonging to Koepke since he was in high school, along with a boat and two motorcycles inside the attached garage, were also destroyed.

Haverstock said there was no chance of saving the home because of how advanced the flames had spread before firefighters from multiple agencies began arriving.

"We did the best knock down on the fire as we could," he said.

Haverstock said making the task more challenging was near zero visibility from snow that was falling heavily at the time, along with temperatures being in the lower teens.

Eventually, parts of the heavily damaged second floor of the structure collapsed inside the attached garage beneath it.

"Everything will be a total loss, unfortunately," he said.

Haverstock said it was too early to know what started the fire but the Indiana State Fire Marshal's office was contacted to help with trying determine the cause.

Firefighters from LaPorte along with volunteers with fire departments from Scipio, Coolspring and Springfield townships assisted in putting out the blaze.

Dunes Arts Foundation to hold 'The Writer's Room' at library

Dunes Arts Foundation will present two introductory sessions of The Writer's Room from 1-3 p.m. CST Saturday, Jan. 25 and Feb. 8, at the Michigan City Public Library, 100 E 4th Street.

After these two introductory sessions, the members will meet in smaller writing groups every third Saturday from 1-3 p.m. CST, also at the Michigan City Public Library.

The Writer's Room project will provide opportunities for showcasing new work, collaboration and professional and artistic development for writers in the northwest Indiana/ southwest Michigan region through an ongoing series of monthly meetings and special events. Membership is open to all writers in the area: playwrights, poets, fiction and nonfiction writers, lyricists and others interested in the literary arts who are interested in exploring contemporary themes and issues of diversity in their own creative writing.

The Writer's Room project is intended to address the following goals: increased awareness of the work of the many culturally diverse writers now living and working in our area; assistance in the development of new work through peer feedback, mentoring and showcases of ongoing work; the cultivation and inclusion of new voices of writers (16 years +) from the established local artistic and cultural institutions; increasing visibility of ethnically diverse artists, their stories and their work to the public and to area arts producers in our area; promoting equitable practices among artists and arts providers in our area and creating a stronger alliance between and among culturally diverse artists in northwest Indiana and southwest Michigan.

There is no cost for membership. For more information and to register please visit www.dunesarts.org/writers, email dunestheatre@gmail.com or call 219-879-7509. — STAFF REPORTS

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Woman accused of stealing nearly $100,000 from American Legion to gamble

BY STAN MADDUX

A La Porte woman is accused of stealing tens of thousands of dollars from an American Legion Post in Michigan City.

Natalee Stewart, 41, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with theft and fraud, both Level 5 felonies.

According to court documents, Stewart was a volunteer financial officer for the American Legion Skwiat Post 451.

Her duties, which provided her with access to the accounts, included payroll, bookkeeping and handling finances for the organization.

From April to November of last year, authorities said she made over $93,000 in withdrawals from two separate accounts.

When questioned, Stewart allegedly told police she used the money to gamble, pay bills and for other expenses.

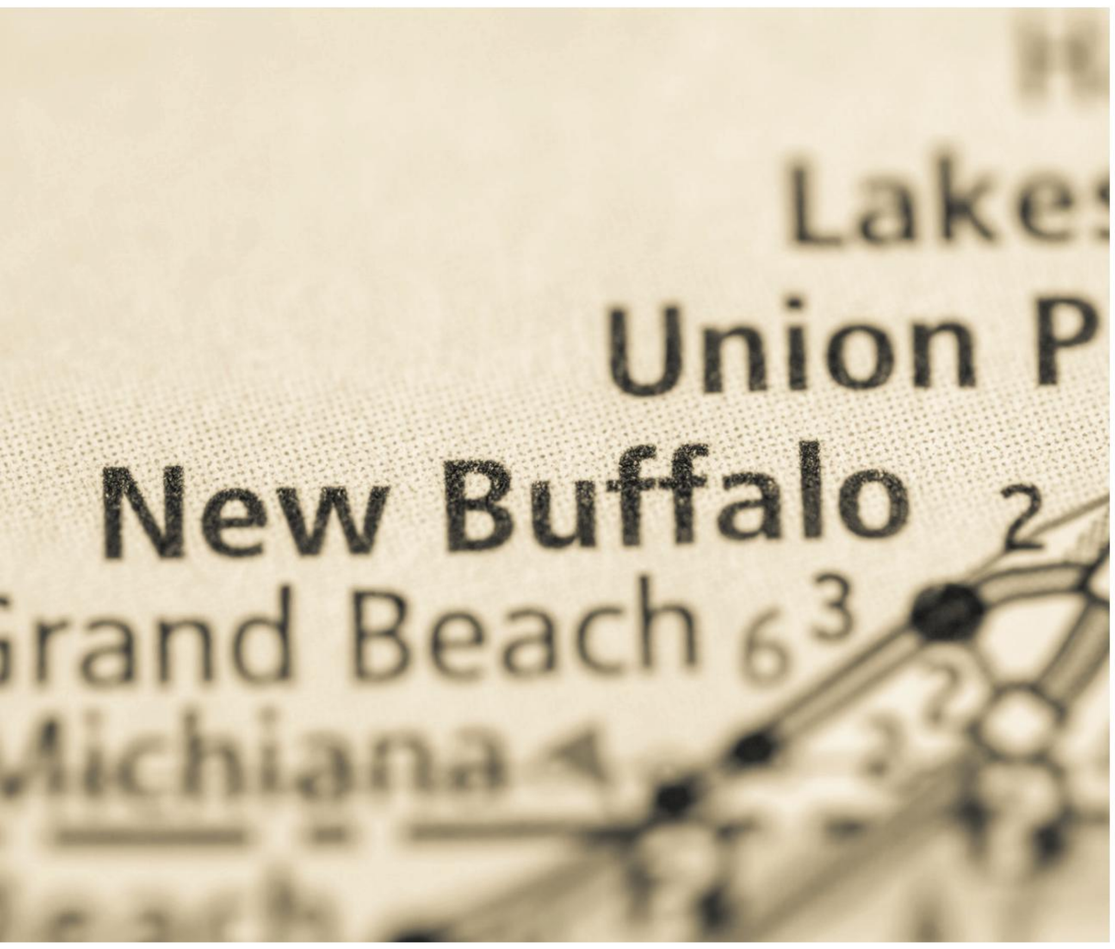
According to court documents, Stewart said she intends to sell her home and use the money to pay back the funds.

She could face an up to six year sentence on each count.

Michigan City Police said the investigation began in early December, when the American Legion Post commander provided bank statements containing well over 50 unrecognized transactions from the accounts.

According to police, Stewart claimed to have paid back some of the money but was not sure of the exact amount.

She could face anywhere from a one to six year sentence on each count.



A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Be careful what you wish for...

I am reeling. Andy has invoked the name of one of the children's entertainment industry's trinity – Judy Price, Phyllis Tucker Vinson and SQuire Rushnell, the VPs of Children's Entertainment at CBS, NBC and ABC.

History is replete with famous trios. Baseball's all-time greatest double-play combination: Tinker to Evers toChance. The greatest forward three in basketball: Bird, Parish and McHale. And everyone's favorite heroic trifecta: Luke, Leia and Han Solo.

For those who labor in children's television during The Golden Age of Television Animation, the highest of the high are Judy Price, Phyliss Tucker Vinson and SQuire Rushnell. And I hear you: "Why did Jack type 'SQuire Rushnell' with a capital 'Q' in his name?" Well, it's a cute story, so I'll take a few lines to tell it.

During his two decades at ABC, SQuire signed personal notes to friends as 'SQ'. His daughter, Hillary, filling in one summer for SQuire's vacationing secretary, noted his signing some letters with the abbreviated 'SQ'. Feeling she'd hit on something, she suggested he incorporate the SQ into all his letters, even when he used his full name,thereby branding himself. A devoted father, SQuire told his daughter, "Whatever you want, honey." And an enduring logo was born...

But back to the trinity. During The Golden Age of Television Animation, cable TV is in its infancy. CBS, NBC and ABC control everything from dramas, comedies and movies-of-the-week to the news, sports and, of course, children's entertainment. Sure, children's shows air weekday mornings and after school on syndicated TV. But major animated shows run on Saturday mornings on CBS, NBC and ABC.

As the VPs of Children's Entertainment, Judy Price, Phyllis Tucker Vinson and SQuire Rushnell wield enormous power. They decide what shows kids will watch, what studios will produce them and what writers will write them.

And now Judy Price, Queen of CBS Children's Entertainment, wants to meet me.

As Andy Heyward weaves his Range Rover through snarled traffic on Fairfax Avenue, it occurs to me this is the first time in my young career as a television writer that I'm in over my head. Me, who never blinked as he was trained by the United States Air Force to be lowered out of helicopters to pick up downed pilots. Me, who smiled and warmly shook hands with Mario Puzo and chatted about how much I enjoyed his The Godfather when I met him at G.P. Putnam's Sons offices, my own novel six months away from its pub date. Me, who calmly turned to Frank Sinatra, our tables side by side at Michel's at the Colony Surf in Honolulu, to tell The Chairman of the Board, Old Blue Eyes, how much I'd enjoyed his concert a few months earlier in Chicago.

This is different. So far I've only written two scripts for The Littles. Heck, I've only written two TV scripts! What am I doing going to CBS to meet with Judy Price?!

I glance at Andy on his car phone as he stops at Melrose Avenue. He glances at me, smiles, and says, "You'll be fine." The light turns green, and he startsdriving, adding, "Just try to sound intelligent..."

I'm not sure how to take that. Instead, I ask, "Who are you on the phone with?"

When he answers, "Jean", I sigh and say, "Great..." Ahead I can see CBS Television City sprawled across twenty-five acres of prime L.A. real estate. "Just great..." I repeat under my breath.

Jack Olesker's career in the entertainment industry spans over four decades. He has served as a story editor in L.A. as well as president of a motion picture and television company in Chennai, India. His writing ranges from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, Care Bears and Hello Kitty's Furry Tale Theater to documentaries and horror novels and murder mysteries for adults.

HOROSCOPE

JANUARY 16-22, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

It is important to listen to your intuition this week, as the energy is being directed towards your career and inner world, giving you the opportunity to bring your dreamier ambitions to life. Pay attention to subtle social ques and you will know when it's the right time to make things happen.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

This is a wonderful time to get out and meet people. Follow your inner desire to explore and talk to people. You can expect a surprise encounter that will get your creative juices flowing. Ask questions. Inquire and you will find what you are looking for. Good vibes are out there for you this week.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

This is the time to harness your innovative talents and original perspectives and go for the opportunity to showcase them when it does this week. Present yourself in a way that integrates your authentic self with a higher purpose. Think stewardship and the honoring spiritual commitments.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

The energy coming your way is all about standing out and presenting yourself in a new and vibrant way but it is important you embrace the art of subtlety and restraint as you promenade through the week; be sensitive to changing conditions and move accordingly.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

This is the week to get a handle on your impulses and reactionary tendencies. That way you can really be part of something and intermingle your talents with like minded people. Collaborations and stewing ideas with coworkers will bring some solid results now; think team player.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

You will be blessed with foresight and divine encouragement this week. This is the time to go with the flow in your relationships and collaborations. Trust in the divine flow of inspiration and happenings. Look for validation that only comes from serendipity. Homework read Three Princes of Serendip.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Sometime sit is better to keep the things you are doing to better yourself to yourself and this is that time. Think subterfuge and maneuvering with out creating attention. The ability to problem-solve and strategize encompasses the ability to believe impossible things; which is better done before breakfast.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

You will be blessed with that certain sparkle and aura this week and will have the opportunity to showcase your creative talents and visions. A very positive vibe but one that requires a certain amount of secrecy and caution. Think stealth for the wealth, undercover for the lover.

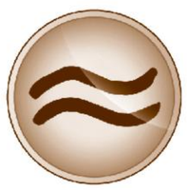
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You have some surprises coming in this week. Be prepared for the opportunity to join your imagination with your innovative abilities by redecorating or redesigning your home and living space. There will be opportunities to make things flow and operate in a more frugal and simplistic way.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

This week is ripe with the potential of understanding valuable information and the ability to put it to good use. That means keeping your eyes and ears open, while keeping your mouth shut. Pay attention to subtle ques and keep a poker face; you'll know when to seize the moment.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



As you are engulfed in the flow of energy this week embrace the concept of "The lonely genius". They are scrupulous, yet honest. Free of social burdens and validation because they can see beyond to the immortal contributions their actions will ultimately have. They walk alone.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

The networks and pathways to seeing the bare essentials are very clear for you this week. Use this openness and reception of those around you to it's fullest by expressing yourself and sharing your unique and original perspectives on public situations and social happenings; be that trusted and reliable source.

I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well. — *Alexander the Great*

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Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		7			5	4		
2				9				
	4	8		2				
			2	5			6	
9		3					7	
		4		6			9	
4				8				
	5	6					4	
	8		9	3				

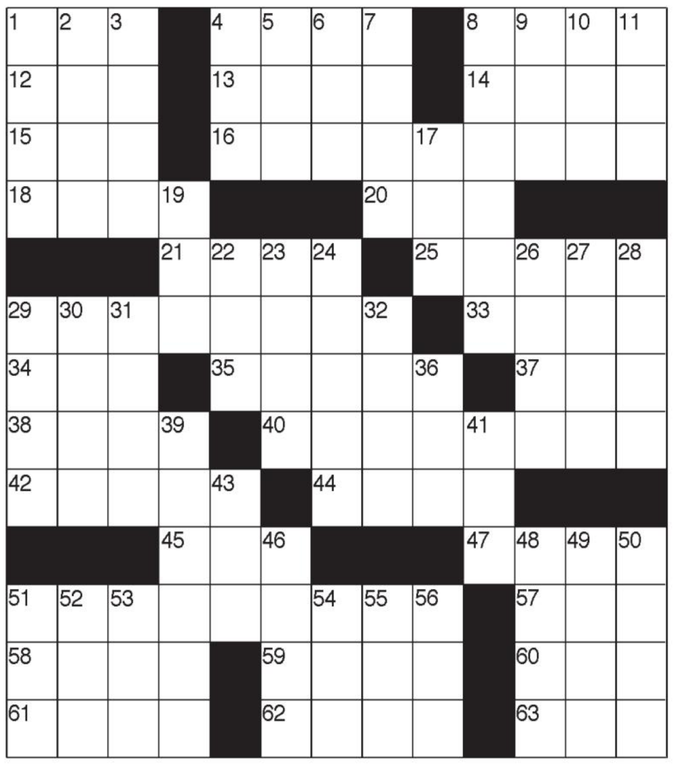
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Bachelor of Hebrew Letters (abbr.)
4 Small lake
8 Down (pref.)
12 Poem
13 Mrs. (Ger.)
14 Slugger's stats
15 Doing business as (abbr.)
16 Cavalier
18 Gumbo
20 Yeomanry (abbr.)
21 Abundant supply
25 Garishness
29 College organization
33 In another manner
34 Former name of Tokyo
35 Remains of what is burned
37 A (Ger.)
38 Back
40 Wanted (2 words)
42 Balinese spear dance
44 Girlfriend of Alley Oop
45 Electroencephalc gram (abbr.)
47 Fine
51 At the same time
57 Sleep state (abbr.)
58 World's first auto in l885
59 Heb. measure
60 Lyric poem
61 Caucasian language
62 Muslim ship's captain
63 New (Ger.)

DOWN

1 Seaport in W. Norway
2 Handbook (abbr.)
3 Shakespearean king
4 Pfennig (abbr.)
5 Metal rock
6 Var. of Anna
7 Tariff
8 Louisiana people
9 Antiballistic missile (abbr.)
10 Aunt (Sp.)
11 Army service number (abbr.)
17 Side of triangle
19 Love (Lat.)
22 Individual retirement acct. (abbr.)
23 Unless, in law
24 People (pref.)
26 Lower intestine
27 Chin. dynasty
28 Parsi scripture
29 Slav
30 Concert halls
31 Cry loudly
32 Old name of Tokyo
36 Selected (abbr.)
39 Wagner opera
41 Bub
43 Seed
46 Jordan valley
48 Hard
49 Give
50 Flightless bird
51 Master of Business Administration (abbr.)
52 Shak. contraction
53 As well as
54 Girl's name
55 Decoration
56 Bitter vetch



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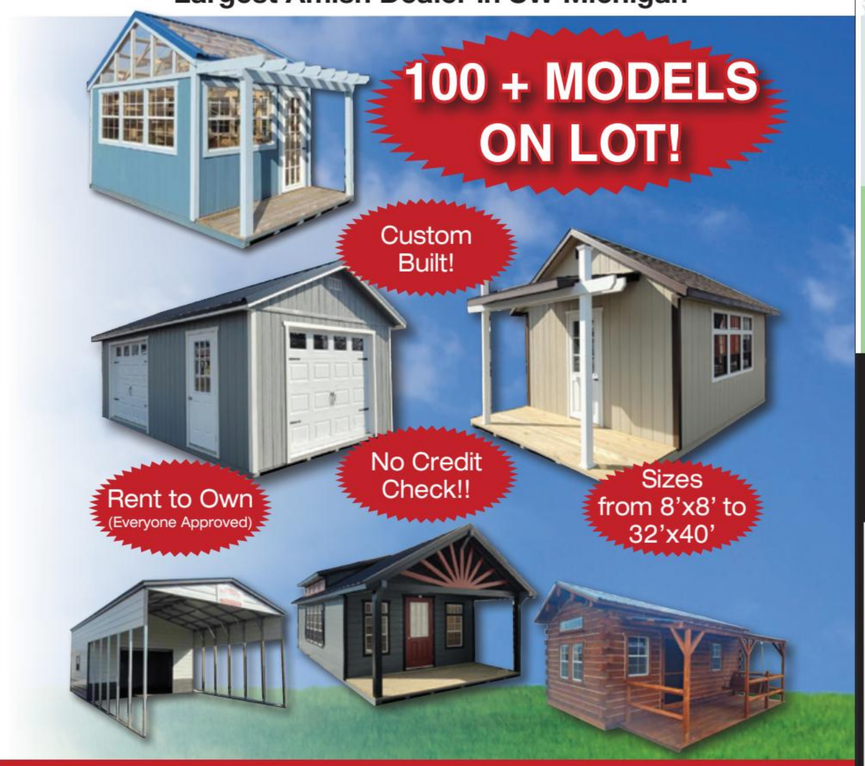

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Please join our New Buffalo American Legion Women's Auxiliary in collecting donations for Blue Star Mothers of America. They are shipping care packages overseas to our active-duty members.

Examples of what they could use are: Toothbrushes/paste, floss, disposable razors, shaving cream in a squeeze tube, eye drops, hand lotion, chap stick,
band aids, sunscreen, insect repellent, playing cards, word search, sudoku, and puzzle books, footballs, dominos, frisbees.

We are accepting monetary donations as well for the shipping costs. Checks for monetary donations can be made to:
Blue Star Mothers of America,
Chapter 177

Please drop off all donations
by February 15th to:
New Buffalo American Legion
19139 US-12
New Buffalo, MI 49117

Our Veterans appreciate you as do we.

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR
REVIEW OF FINAL SITE PLAN
FOR SITE CONDOMINIUM
– "THE HAVEN"

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008, as amended, and the Village of Grand Beach Zoning Ordinance, the Village of Grand Beach Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider comments regarding a final site plan submitted for a proposed Site Condominium under Sections 9.02 and 13.09 of the Village Zoning Ordinance for property commonly known as the "Ten Acres" and "The Haven", with addresses of Grand Beach Road and 47301 Grand Beach Road, Grand Beach, MI 49117, Parcels 11-39-0019-0007-01-1 and 11-39-0019-0007-00-3, with the public hearing to be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. EST at the Village Hall, 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, MI 49117. At that time, the Village Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to listen to and consider any public comments about the proposed final site plan for the site condominium on the above-described parcels.

The final site plan can be reviewed by contacting the Village Clerk, Kimberly Wolnik, at 269-469-3141 or by email at clerk@grandbeach.org during regular business hours after the publication of this Notice. The final site plan in its entirety may also be examined at the hearing. Individuals with disabilities or the need for auxiliary aids should contact the Clerk by phone or email above, or send correspondence to the Clerk at 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, MI 49117, not less than 5 days before the hearing.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received by the Clerk at the Village Hall by email or mail not less than 3 days prior to the public hearing to be included in the written materials submitted for review by the Planning Commission.

KIMBERLY WOLNIK
VILLAGE CLERK

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PET OF THE WEEK

CYRUS

Cyrus, also known as Chungus, has always been significantly bigger than his mates. He loves cuddles, but is also very playful. Cyrus is good with all, from cats and to dogs, to kids. He is neutered, and up-to-date with his vaccinations. He loves a good long nap, and takes to treats like nothing. Cyrus is a little over two months old, and is very well-socialized, but still needs some training.

AVAILABLE AT THE
MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
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6	9	7	3	1	5	4	8	2
2	3	5	4	9	8	6	1	7
1	4	8	6	2	7	5	3	9
8	7	1	2	5	9	3	6	4
9	6	3	8	4	1	2	7	5
5	2	4	7	6	3	8	9	1
4	1	9	5	8	6	7	2	3
3	5	6	1	7	2	9	4	8
7	8	2	9	3	4	1	5	6

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DEATH NOTICES

THREE OAKS – Ann Dawson, 72, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Friday, January 10, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

Student musicians showcased at The Acorn

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Intermediate and advanced students took the stage at The School of American Music Winter Showcase at The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts in Three Oaks Sunday, Jan. 12.

Student performances included piano, guitar and vocal solos and a couple duets.

The School of American Music Winter Recital, featuring students not in the Winter Showcase, will be at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert.

Arthur Anderson plays Mozart's Rondo ala Turca

Myles Dillon plays Suzanne by Leonard Cohen

Natalie Freehling sings Clouds by Charles and Cloud Shadows by Rogers

Claire Sullivan sings M. Clementi's Sonatina in C Major Op. 36

Abigail Shaw sings Braham's Wie Melodien (A Thought Like Music)

David Wilkes Jr. performs S. Romberg's The Desert Song

Clay Burk sings Niles' Wayfaring Stranger

Charlie Hart performs Nuvole Bianche by Ludovico Einaud

Dave Witter and Garth Taylor perform a guitar duet

Alexander Heiser plays Sofeggieto by C.P.E. Bach

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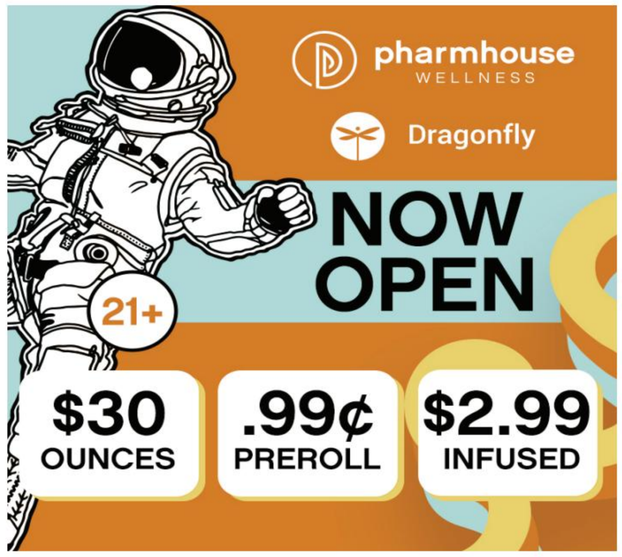

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